

Utah School Readiness Board Members on Call

Jim Sorenson
Tracy Gruber
Steve Crandall
Jennifer Throndsen

- Steve Crandall motioned to approve the minutes from the August 28, 2018 conference call. Tracy Gruber seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion approved.
- Nune Phillips reviewed the budget recommendations for each program. A few key items were highlighted during the discussion, including:
 - The established flat rate per student –
 - 3 year old: \$1,175
 - 4 year old, half-day: \$1,775
 - 4 year old, full-day: \$2,500
 - DWS, OCC explained the use of funds for “additional expenses” may only be used for expenses related to student recruitment and retention, data collection, and meeting reporting requirements, as outlined in the Request for Grant Applications.
 - DWS, OCC noted the recommended cap for grant administration is 5 hours per week for the programs that requested these funds. The majority of grant administration time will be spent on data tracking, which is a very important component of this funding. Grant administration funding has not been provided in the past and is intended to encourage a higher degree of data tracking. Grant administration time may need to be reviewed and adjusted in future grant years.
- The Board reviewed specific funding recommendations for programs and discussed budget adjustments based on the recommendations from DWS, OCC. Specifically discussed were the following adjustments to submitted budget proposals:
 - DWS, OCC recommended adjusting the number of students funded through Ameris Academy from 40 to 5 at the per student cost for full-day 4 year olds, due to the limited amount of data provided in the grant application. An ECERS-3 observation is scheduled to take place next week to determine the quality threshold.
 - The Board discussed the funding requested by Granite School District to cover the cost of the \$40 student enrollment fee for their proposed 950 program participants.
 - It was noted that Granite School District typically absorbs the cost of the fee for low-income students. The fee is charged to all students that enroll in their program; it is not being levied solely for the purpose of this grant.
 - Board members expressed concerns that other programs may opt to charge enrollment fees in the future if they are allowed for Granite School District and are not comfortable at this time in approving these additional costs. The fee issue may be revisited in future grant years.
- The Board proceeded with a vote to approve Results Based Contract grants as follows:

- Granite School District - \$1,566,250 total
 - \$1,566,250 to fund 950 students; \$0 in additional costs
 - Steve Crandall motioned to approve the recommended Granite School District budget, minus \$38,000 in additional costs. Jim Sorenson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion approved.
- Guadalupe - \$121,219 total
 - \$118,000 to fund 80 students; \$3,219 in additional costs
 - Tracy Gruber motioned to approve Guadalupe's recommended budget. Steve Crandall seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion approved.
- Ameris Academy
 - \$12,500 to fund 5 students; \$3,700 in additional costs
 - There was discussion that Ameris provided limited outcome data for few students and used a measure of special education that was based on proficiency scores rather than special education participation. In addition, members discussed the fact that Ameris is a new grantee and quality has not yet been evaluated. As a result of both concerns, members discussed evaluating program quality prior to execution of the contract.
 - As a result of the concerns and discussion, Tracy Gruber made a motion that funding for Ameris Academy be contingent on the program achieving a minimum comprehensive score of 3 on the scheduled ECERS-3 observation assessment. Steve Crandall seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion approved.
- Smart Kids - \$48,290 total
 - \$42,950 to fund 22 students; \$5,340 in additional costs
 - Jim Sorenson motioned to approve Smart Kids' recommended budget. Steve Crandall seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion approved.
- Lit'l Scholars - \$26,175 total
 - \$25,575 to fund 15 students; \$600 in additional costs
 - Steve Crandall motioned to approve Lit'l Scholars' recommended budget. Jim Sorenson seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion approved.
- YMCA - \$112,600 total
 - \$112,600 to fund 62 students; \$0 in additional costs
 - Jim Sorenson motioned to approve YMCA's recommended budget. Jennifer Throndsen seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion approved.
- Nune Phillips noted that an in-person meeting will be scheduled over the coming weeks to, among other things, review Pay for Success data and approve investor payments. Future meetings to align with key reporting dates will also be scheduled in advance.